Standards of Public Land Health
Evaluation of 63511 HAYS-BIRD 15 Allotment
[04/23/2010]

The ROSWELL Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 1 study sites within 63511 HAYS-BIRD 15. The assessments looked at the Soil/Site Stability, Hydrologic Function and Biotic Integrity indicators within the vicinity of each study site. Existing monitoring data was incorporated into and in support of the field assessment. The summary of each assessment is attached and shown in the following table.

Study Area or Assessment Area	UPLAND			BIOTIC			RIPARIAN		
	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet
63511-HALL-E224	X			X			N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the Hays-Bird 15 allotment, 63511. Ten of these assessed soil site stability, 11 hydrologic functions and 13 assessed biotic integrity. These qualitative assessments in conjunction with quantitative information gathered from previous data collected at the trend study plot locations within the allotment were utilized to make rangeland health determinations. Quantitative evaluations are performed by the Roswell Field Office interdisciplinary teams, which include some or all of the following: ground and vegetative cover and composition, production, frequency and ecological condition. The collections which were initiated in the late 1970's/early 1980's, are scheduled and conducted approximately every 5 years. This allotment is in the "M" (Maintain) category.

This allotment contains 2,509 acres of public land. The study is located on one ecological site; Shallow CP-3. All but five of the indicators for this location fell into the None to Slight category; the categories Pedestals and/or Terracettes, Litter Movement, Soil Surface Loss or Degradation, Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion, and Functional Structural Groups were rated as Slight to Moderate

There are no riparian areas on the public land within this allotment.

Recommendations: With all of the indicators falling in the None to Slight or Slight to Moderate category, this allotment is rated as "Meeting" the standards for Rangeland Health. Continue the rangeland monitoring studies to insure proper stocking rates are maintained and that the perennial grass cover and good plant composition remains.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet			
SITE 63511-HALL-E224			
Legal Land Desc	NENE 8 0020S 0180E Meridian 23	Acreage	2509
Ecosite	070CY113NM SHALLOW CP-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13060003130 GYPSUM		
Observers	TRAUTNER, ORTEGA	Observation Date	04/23/2010
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	053	Soil Taxon Name	PASTURA
Texture Class	NM632 L	Soil Phase	PASTURA
Texture Modifier	NM632 LOAM		
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Annual Precipitation		NOAA Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation		NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
Disturbances and Animal Use:			

Part 2. Attributes and Indicators

		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills					X
Comments:						
S H	Water Flow Patterns					X
Comments:						
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes				X	
Comments:	Some pedalstalliing among hairy grama					
S H	Bare Ground					X
Comments:	Bare ground estimated at this site = 20%, ecological site description = 25-40%					
S H	Gullies					X

Comments:						
S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement				X	
Comments:	High winds in this area from Feb to June, some litter movement noted.					
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:	More of a sandier-loam, doesn't have desired resistence.					
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation				X	
Comments:						
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff					X
Comments:						
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups				X	
Comments:	Missing more of a diversity of grass and shrubs.					
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:						
H B	Litter Amount					X
Comments:						
B	Annual Production					X
Comments:	winthin 80% desired range of 650 lbs/acre					
B	Invasive Plants					X
Comments:						
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants					X
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts					X
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat					X
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Populations					

Comments:						
B	Special Status Species Habitat					
Comments:	Not applicable					
B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:	Not applicable					

Part 3. Summary

A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.

Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	0	3	7
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	4	7
B	Biotic	0	0	0	3	7

B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the *Does not Meet* column, Moderate becomes *May Need More Info*, and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the *Meets* columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.

Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets
Soil		0	0	10
Hydrologic		0	0	11
Biotic		0	0	10

Site Notes: Species present at this location: dominated by black grama & hairy grama, missing sideoats and little bluestem although this site doesn't appear to be suitable to little bluestem because of the high percentage of gravel in soil profile. Some 3-awn present. Shrubs are yucca, scattered cholla, sagebrush and algerita.

The high winds have created a crust right on the surface increasing resistance to erosion.

Continue current management, site looks good.

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 63511 HAYS-BIRD 15

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (dated January 2001) adopted three Standards for Public Land Health. These are (1) Upland Sites Standard, (2) Biotic Communities, Including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species Standard and (3) Riparian Sites Standard.

The ROD also established a process for the BLM Field Offices for implementation. Through a public participation process, the Roswell Field Office developed and adopted indicators to use in conjunction with existing monitoring data to assess these standards.

Field assessment worksheets and other available data that evaluate the local indicators were completed for this allotment. Based on these assessments, it is my determination that public land within Hays-Bird 15, allotment #63511, meets the (1) Upland Sites standard and (2) Biotic Communities, including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species standard. There are no public land Riparian areas on this allotment, therefore this standard was not addressed.

/s/ J. Howard Parman — 05/21/2010

Acting Assistant Field Manager — Date